

Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes May 5, 2015

The Matthews Environmental Committee met in regular session on May 5, 2015 at the Public Works Facility. Members present were Chairman Gordon Miller, Ollie Frazier, David Ross, John Lynch and Scott Baranowski. Also present were Jack Killiebrew from Republic Services, along with Rosalind Cumming and Ralph Messera from Public Works. Also, observing the meeting were three members of the public, two of which were Butler High school students, and the mother of one of the students.

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The April minutes were reviewed and approved.

Mr. Killiebrew gave the Republic Services report stating that everything went well during the month of April. For the beginning of May, he stated they had been having some issues, and that yard waste had been running behind. They are now back on track except for the neighborhood of Brightmoor which will be handled tomorrow.

Mr. Messera discussed that Public Works has been having some issues with the cart delivery company, Waste Rec. They have been running behind on cart delivery and have been marking carts as delivered when they haven't been. Mr. Killiebrew said he will look into this and talk with Waste Rec and get back with the Public Works Department.

Under other solid waste issues, a luncheon was held for Republic Services drivers at the Public Works facility. The drivers were very appreciative and it was used as a good communication tool for discussion between drivers and the Public Works department. Also, the Town held a litter sweep on April 17th and 18th along with the Earth day event. Public Works employees participated in picking up litter for the day, instead of their regular duties.

On Storm Water issues, house bill 760 was discussed. It is a 35 page bill to be brought before the NC General Assembly which affects storm water issues. Essentially it will reduce the requirements for buffers on streams and the maintenance of buffers on streams. There was some discussion of how this would affect our environment and how it would eliminate any controls exceeding federal regulation. Follow up on this issue will be coming from Mr. Rusty Rozzelle.

Next, under storm water issues, notice of violation for 10416 E. Independence Boulevard was discussed. A sewer had been stopped up at this location, allowing sewage to flow into a storm drain which drained into Irwins creek. A NOV was sent to the landlord of the shopping center. This violation happened twice within a two month period. A penalty is in the process of being

initiated and sent by the Town Manager. It was noted, that even if this property manager sells this property, which he indicated in his written response, he is still liable for the NOV.

Another NOV occurred at 2601 Briar Trail Court. Sewage was observed to have been pumped from the residents septic tank into the yard, where it ran into a ditch and into several other yards. The notice of violation has been sent and it is in the penalty phase.

Under other storm water issues, Mr. Messera talked about the possibility of storm water rates being raised for this year. Matthews currently maintains an underground storm water piping system of about 110 miles. We have one large contracted job to line rusted pipes on Winterwood Drive, projected for the coming fiscal year in addition to all the other storm water expenses. Going forward, we may have more of these projects as the pipe system gets older. We are considering going to a 4 tier fee system. As Matthews has to ask for a tax increase this year, due to bonds becoming due and because of lost revenue due to elimination of business licenses, and because of property evaluation tax credits, Mr. Messera stated that it would not be wise to try to increase the storm water fees this year. Instead, he discussed using the remaining available fund balance for increased costs this coming year and asking for a storm water fee increase in the following year.

Regarding Air Quality, Mr. Ross reported that there were no violations of air quality in the past month in Matthews, and all facilities are in compliance. It was mentioned, that we will be getting new ozone standards in October, but as of now, we remain in compliance.

Regarding Physical Agents, engine brake regulation was discussed. Apparently a resident that lives in the Trade street townhouses located behind the Walgreens close to highway 51, had complained about trucks passing by and making a lot of noise with their engine compression breaking. We currently have a noise ordinance in place that covers excess noise, but does not specifically address engine brake noise. Mr. Messera provided copies of information from other NC towns that have addressed this issue. It was mentioned that dump trucks and concrete trucks pass by those townhouses on the way to the quarry on Sam Newell Road. If some kind of ordinance was put in place, it would be difficult to enforce. The Police department would have a difficult time enforcing it and would not have the manpower to enforce. The biggest issue for the Matthews Police Department is traffic accidents, which average about 10 a day. After some discussion it was decided that the committee has no specific recommendations at this time, but if we receive more complaints, it will be reviewed again.

Under other business, the tentative plan for the garbage contract was discussed. The current garbage contract ends 6/30/2016. The Town will need to decide if they are going to renew the current contract, or put it out to bid. Mr. Miller met with the Town Manger and they agreed that the current contractor is doing a reasonable job. Currently about 10% of the budget is spent on

sanitation services. There isn't a real problem with the existing company, but there is an opportunity to take a look and compare other companies. It was decided that the Town should get a statement of qualifications from other companies that could have availability. It is the committee's responsibility to make sure that Matthews tax payers' money is spent wisely. Mr. Miller has drafted a statement of qualification letter which was reviewed. Ms. Cumming will review the draft for errors and Mr. Messara will review for legal corrections. This SOQ will then be sent out to garbage companies in the surrounding area, by May 15th. We plan to receive these back by June 19th with the requested qualifications. At the July meeting (Tuesday July 7th), they will be reviewed. The committee will determine who is qualified or not and will make a first cut and narrow the choices down to about 4. The selected companies will then be presented with some questions, or invited in to give a brief presentation.

It was suggested to send SOQ to the following companies:

Republic Services
Advanced Disposal
Waste Mgmt
Waste Pro
Signature
Waste Connections
God Bless the USA
RCS
Green Day
Action

With other business completed, a motion was made at 8:30 pm to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded, and passed. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday June 2nd, 2015.

Rosalind Cumming
Secretary